

**CLAIMS**

1           1. A method of processing information with a system provided with at least two  
2 processing devices coupled to a network, the method comprising:  
3           receiving a definition of a job for processing information from a user of the system;  
4           automatically checking whether processing devices belonging to a predetermined  
5 set selected from at least two processing devices are suitable for performing the job;  
6           presenting and indication for each processing device of the set, to the user via  
7 presentation means, of whether the same is suitable for performing the job;  
8           receiving a selection of a processing device belonging to the set; and  
9           transmitting at least a part of the job to the selected processing device.

1           2. The method according to claim 1, wherein at least two processing devices are  
2 printing devices.

1           3. The method according to claim 1, wherein if a processing device is not suitable  
2 for performing the job, then a reason for this is indicated via the presentation means.

1           4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the indication of a reason that a  
2 processing device is not suitable for performing the job is made in response to the said  
3 processing device having been selected by the user.

1           5. The method according to claim 1, wherein a part of the defined job is presented  
2 to the user.

1           6. The method according to claim 5, wherein said part of the job comprises a  
2 setting of the job.

1           7. The method according to claim 5, wherein said part of the job is presented to  
2 the user simultaneously with said indication the processing devices of the set via the  
3 presentation means.

1           8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the selected processing device is  
2 indicated on the presentation means.



6           indicating, if the processing device is not suitable for performing the job, a reason  
7           therefor via the presentation means.

1           19. The method according to claim 18, wherein the reason is indicated if the  
2           processing device is allocated by a user of the system.

1           20. The method according to claim 18, wherein the processing device is a printing  
2           device.

1           21. A system for processing information, the system comprising:  
2           a network to which are coupled the following;  
3           at least two processing devices;  
4           defining means for defining a job for processing information;  
5           research means for checking whether processing devices belonging to a  
6           predetermined set selected from the at least two processing devices are suitable for  
7           performing the defined job;  
8           presentation means for presenting an indication, for each processing device of the  
9           set, of whether the same is suitable for performing the defined job; and  
10          selection means for selecting a processing device.

1           22. The system according to claim 21, further comprising first indicating means to  
2           indicate, in the event that the research means has determined that a displayed  
3           processing device is not suitable for performing the job, why said processing device is not  
4           suitable for performing the job.

1           23. The system according to claim 22, wherein the presentation means indicate  
2           why said processing device is not suitable.

1           24. The system according to claim 22, further comprising allocating means for  
2           allocating a processing device, said allocating means being connected to the display  
3           means in such manner that in response to the allocation of the processing device the  
4           indicating means indicate why this processing device is not suitable.

1           25. The system according to claim 24, wherein the allocation means are  
2           controllable by a user of the system.

1           26. The system according to claim 21, further comprising means for displaying a  
2 part of the job.

1           27. The system according to claim 26, wherein said part comprises a setting of the  
2 job.

1           28. The system according to claim 26, wherein the means for displaying a part of  
2 the job is connected to the presentation means for presenting the said part to the user via  
3 the said presentation means.

1           29. The system according to claim 26, wherein the presentation means is adapted  
2 to present the said part of the job and the set of processing devices simultaneously.

1           30. The system according to claim 21, wherein the selection means are adapted  
2 to make a selection for a processing device on the basis of a predetermined criterion.

1           31. The system according to claim 30, wherein the criterion is selected from the  
2 group consisting of processing properties of the processing device, a distance between a  
3 user and the processing device, availability of the processing device, printing costs and a  
4 personal preference of the user.

1           32. The system according to claim 30, further comprising means with which a user  
2 of the system can change the selection.

1           33. The system according to claim 21, further comprising confirmation means  
2 connected to transmission means so that after confirmation of a selection of a processing  
3 device the job is transmitted to said processing device.

1           34. The system according to claim 21, further comprising second indicating means  
2 to indicate whether at least one processing device belonging to the set is suitable for  
3 performing the job.

1           35. The system for processing information, the system comprising:  
2 a processing device;  
3 defining means for defining a job for processing information;

4 research means for checking whether the processing device is suitable for  
5 performing the defined job; and

6 indicating means to indicate a reason, in the event that the research means show  
7 that the processing device is not suitable for performing the job, why said processing  
8 device is not suitable for performing the job.

1 36. The system according to claim 35, further comprising allocation means for  
2 allocating the processing device in such manner that the indicating means indicate why  
3 the processing device is not suitable if the same has been allocated by means of the  
4 allocation means.

1 37. The system according to claim 35, wherein the processing device is a printing  
2 device.

1 38. The computer program element comprising computer program code means for  
2 causing a processor to perform the method according to claim 1.

1 39. The computer program element comprising computer program code means for  
2 causing a processor to perform the method according to claim 18.